

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 14904 230937Z

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ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8259

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 14904

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPRS, PFOR, SNAR, TH

SUBJ: REPORT ON EXTRADITION CASES -- PHKG AH SEONG AND
TONY MA ET AL

REF: A. STATE 168623

B. SINGAPORE 3122

1. BELIEVE REF B ANSWERS THE QUESTION IN REF A ABOUT
KEENAN'S REPORT ON PHANG. KEENAN THINKS THERE HAS BEEN
SOME MISUNDERSTANDING IN THAT HE HAS NOT PROMISED A REPORT
ON TONY MA AND HIS ASSOCIATES.

2. WE USED THE MA CASE IN EARLY JULY WITH BOTH THE
MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WAIKUN
SAMRUATRUAMPHON, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MFA'S TREATY AND
LEGAL DIVISION, SAID THAT MFA, UPON ADVICE FROM INTERIOR,
COULD NOT GIVE A SATISFACTORY REPLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR
EXTRADITION OF MA AND HIS COHORTS BECAUSE WE HAD NOT SPECIFIED
THEIR NATIONALITY OR WHEREABOUTS. HE SAID THAT IF WE SENT
ANOTHER NOTE IDENTIFYING MA AS A THAI NATIONAL, THE COURTS
WOULD PROBABLY NOT ALLOW EXTRADITION SINCE DENIAL OF
EXTRADITION IS A RIGHT UNDER THE TREATY, WHICH HAS NO
SPECIFIC PROVISION FOR NARCOTICS OFFENDERS.

3. POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT A
POSSIBLE OUT EXISTS IF MA AND HIS ACCOMPLICES HAD BEEN
BORN IN THAILAND OF MAINLAND CHINESE PARENTS. THIS
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 14904 230937Z

HERITAGE COULD PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR DISENFRANCHISING THEM

OF THAI CITIZENSHIP. ASIDE FROM THIS HIGHLY DUBIOUS
POSSIBILITY, THE EXTRADITION OF MA AND HIS COHORTS SEEMS
UNLIKELY. WE WILL NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS.
WHITEHOUSE

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